

WILLIAM B. MAGILL KILLS HIS WIFE AND THEN SEEKS HIS OWN LIFE

EMPTIES CONTENTS OF A SHOT GUN IN HER HEAD AS SHE LAY IN BED

Goes To Another Room, Reloads Gun And Discharges It Into His Own Head

A Well Defined Motive For Deeds Is Lacking

PROBABLY DERANGED OVER FAILURE TO SECURE THE NOMINATION FOR TREASURER

The community was shocked early Saturday morning by a murder and an attempted suicide—which resulted in the death of Mrs. Lola M. Magill and in all probabilities will result in the death of her husband, William B. Magill, a well known school teacher of Mt. Vernon.

The tragedy occurred, as near as can be determined, at 6:30 o'clock at the Magill residence on North Gay street, not far from Mound View cemetery.

The exact cause for the shooting will probably never be determined.

Magill was a candidate for the Republican nomination for county treasurer at the primaries last May and was defeated. Ever since that time he has been a disappointed man and frequently remarked to his friends and neighbors that his financial condition was such that at times it was difficult for him to make both ends meet.

It would therefore appear that his financial condition preyed heavily on his mind, and secondly the man was under considerable mental strain recently on account of sickness in his family. It is understood that his wife had not been in very good health for some weeks past and then his young son, Morgan, aged 16 years, has been quite ill for several weeks past and Mr. Magill was compelled to remain up much during the night and then teach school during the day.

To a physician Friday evening, Magill remarked, "I have not slept much for almost a week and am nearly worn out."

The surroundings about the home would bear out the report in regard to Magill's financial condition. The roof of the house was in a bad condition and one could see the daylight in several places. There was evidence that water came through when it rained and the paper was torn from the wall in several places.

With all these things existing and preying heavily upon the man's mind, the theory is advanced that he worked himself up to such a high state of mind that he considered he would be better off out of the world than in it and accordingly determined to end all by first killing his wife and then killing himself.

The neighbors state, and so do the relatives, that the domestic relations between the man and his wife were the best and that there had been no quarrels of any kind.

When a Banner reporter visited the scene of the tragedy early in the morning the house and premises had the appearance of a slaughter house. The bed room and kitchen were spattered with blood and a crimson path led from the front door to the gate and into the street and then in a circle back to the door. The ceiling in the kitchen was shot-torn where a large

amount of a charge of shot had penetrated.

The murder and attempted suicide occurred, as near as it is possible to determine, at 6:30 o'clock in the morning. Mrs. Magill was lying in bed, while her husband moved about the kitchen and adjoining room. There was no indication of violence on the part of the latter, he having appeared

to be in a somewhat better frame of mind than usual, until he stepped into the bed room carrying a double barreled shot gun. Mrs. Magill was lying in the bed, which was located at the northwest corner of the room, and was in such a position as to expose the left side of her head. Indications were that the position was not correct for the accomplishment of his purpose from the position he was in on entering the room so he walked to the foot of the bed and went between it and the wall. From this position he is supposed to have placed the muzzle of the gun close to the left side of her head and fired. The entire charge struck his victim and tore away nearly all of the jaw bone and terribly mutilated the entire left side of her head. She was asleep when he entered the room and did not awaken for the reason that he probably moved cautiously in order not to alarm her. She was not instantly killed, but died shortly before eight o'clock without regaining consciousness.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
Immediately after committing the terrible deed, Magill fled from the room and went into the kitchen where he had first secured the gun. He opened the left barrel, the one which had been fired, and, extracting the empty shell, reloaded it. Having done this, he placed the muzzle against his right jaw and pressed the trigger with his foot. The left barrel was again exploded and the charge this time went into his own head. The wound inflicted was not as bad as that of his wife because a large number of the shot did not penetrate deep, but glanced and went into the ceiling over his head.

After shooting himself, Magill dropped the gun and staggered to the front door and went out into the yard. He reached the gate and then turned back and made his way into the house to the bed room where his wife lay sweltering in blood. He threw himself across her body and lay perfectly still.

SHOTS HEARD BY NEIGHBORS
When the crime was committed Mrs. Frederick Kraft and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Allen Ewalt, were sitting in the dining room in the Kraft home just across the street from Magill's.

When the first shot was heard it sounded muffled and the women thought that a neighbor had dropped a wash tub. No attention was paid by them until the second and louder report rang out and then, becoming alarmed, Mrs. Ewalt ran to the front door and looked out into the street. Just at this time Magill staggered out of the front door with blood streaming from his jaw and down over his shirt front to the ground. Mrs. Ewalt saw him go to the front gate and start toward a small tree in the yard. Seeing that something terrible had happened, she quickly informed Mrs. Kraft who ran to the home of William Hissong a short distance away. Mr. Hissong, as quickly as possible, hastened to the Magill home and found both Mrs. Magill and her husband lying on the bed in a mess of blood. Mrs. Magill was lying lengthwise on the bed and he had thrown himself crosswise over her body.

A PHYSICIAN SUMMONED
Without lingering to attempt to investigate the terrible scene that fell under his gaze, Mr. Hissong ran back home and telephoned to Dr. Harry W. Blair who made all haste to the scene of the tragedy. The man and woman were in the same position as when seen by Hissong and both were still living. Chappelle, Kaufman & Co.'s ambulance was called to the scene and Magill was rushed to the Mt. Vernon hospital where he is now lying in a most critical condition.

Mrs. Magill was swiftly bleeding to death when the doctor arrived and everything possible was done to save her life. This was to no avail, however, and she died about one and one half hours after being shot. Her remains were taken to the Chappelle, Kaufman & Co. undertaking establish-

ment to be prepared for burial.

THE CORONER'S VISIT
Before the body of the murdered woman was moved, Deputy Coroner B. C. Deeley was summoned and an examination was made. Nothing could be found or heard to point to the shooting being accidental so his finding was "murder and attempted suicide."

POLICE ON SCENE
The police department was notified of the murder and attempted suicide shortly after it had occurred Saturday morning. Chief of Police Clements and Officer George hastened to the Magill home, but did not arrive at the house until after Magill had been removed to the Mt. Vernon hospital.

The police have taken no action in the affair at the present time. If Magill should die there will be nothing for the police department to do. On the other hand should Magill recover, which is not likely, a charge of murder will be placed against the man.

MADE PURCHASES FOR SON
Magill was down town Friday evening and conversed with a number of friends, but exhibited no sign of his mental condition. He talked to W. B. Hancock relative to some business matters and appeared at one of the clothing stores and purchased some underwear for his young son.

DR. BLAIR'S STATEMENT
Magill was at Dr. Blair's office on Friday evening and was very much worried over the condition of his son, Morgan Magill, 16 years of age, and acted queer. Dr. Blair said his statements were sometimes of a rambling nature and his mind did not appear to be exactly normal. He told the doctor that he had not slept for nearly a week and that he was feeling badly.

Dr. Blair said that the chances of Magill's recovery are small on account of the nature of the wound and the great loss of blood. The left side of his lower jaw was nearly all shot away and the upper part of his neck was terribly torn on the left side. He is very weak from loss of blood and perhaps will not recover.

MAGILL'S QUEER ACT
One act of the man, after he had fired the shot into his own jaw, is hard to understand. Before going out the door and into the yard he drew a package of letters and postcards from his pocket and smeared blood all over them. They were then dropped to the floor and were later destroyed. It is thought by neighbors who attached no importance to them, however, and that is the interesting part. On the front and back of each was written, "lies," in large letters. What this one word might have meant is not known but it probably had some bearing upon the crime. It is probable that the contents of the letters would have given more light on the affair as far as motive is concerned.

WHAT THE SON SAID
Magill's son, Morgan Magill, who was sleeping on a cot next to the death chamber, said, on being questioned, that he did not hear the first shot fired and did not awaken until the second explosion came. He could tell nothing about the affair, or said that he could not, except that he was frightened by the knowledge that something terrible had happened and screamed at the top of his voice.

The boy has been ill for some time and had been sleeping close to the door leading into the bed room. Had he been awake, he would probably have been in a position to see the deed. Nothing tangible could be extracted from him and he appeared to be backward about telling anything or discussing the affair from any angle. His illness and physical condition probably had a good deal to do with his actions on being asked to answer questions.

WAS SECOND WIFE
The murdered woman was Magill's second wife, the first having died over two years ago. Neighbors are at loss to account for the act when considering family relations because the two seemed to get along together excellently and were never heard quarreling. The neighbors said Saturday morning that whenever Mrs. Magill showed a tendency to be out of humor at any time, her husband would say, "I won't love you if you get mad." When she would hear him say this she, it is said, always felt very badly and vowed that she would never get mad at him. She always was very particular to please him in every way and on Friday evening asked a neighbor woman to mix some pie crust for her because she was afraid that she could not do it well enough to please her husband. Trouble between man

and wife could not have been the cause of the double crime.

HINTED HIS INTENTION
Ivan Magill, son of William Magill, who is married and lives in the west end of town, paid a visit to his father's home Friday evening for the first time since the second marriage. During his visit the father told him all about his troubles, real and probably fancied, and acted in a rather strange manner although his actions were not noticeably erratic. He repeated the story of his defeat at the primaries and said that he was undecided just what was the best way out of the trouble. One of the last sentences he uttered to his son, however, was this: "You will know the end later." This utterance gives rise to the belief that the man premeditated murder and suicide and was successful in the former instance and perhaps in the latter. No other interpretation can be made of the expression.

On May 27th, 1912, Magill married Mrs. Lola M. Taylor, the woman whom he killed, and brought her to Mt. Vernon to live. She formerly lived at Esto, Ohio, and had been divorced from her first husband. She had an eight-year-old daughter at the time when she married Magill, but the girl has been living with her grandparents in Esto. Mrs. Magill's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miser, are well known residents of Butler township.

BROODED OVER ELECTION
Magill was a candidate for the nomination for county treasurer at the primaries last spring and believed before the election that he would get the nomination. He failed, however, and this came as a blow. He acted queerly for a long time after that and told several persons that he was nearly crazy with disappointment and worry. The failure at the polls evidently preyed upon his mind all along for he frequently mentioned it all summer and fall. This along with continuous financial difficulties, probably caused his mind to be wrought up to such a pitch that he committed murder and attempted suicide thinking that it would be the easiest way out of all of the trouble.

On Friday morning Magill arose early and persisted in leaving for his school long before the usual time. His wife tried to persuade him that it was too early, but he insisted that he must go or he would be late reporting for duty. He never acted this way before and Mrs. Magill could not understand his unusual behavior.

Magill has been teaching in the county schools for many years and this fall had been teaching at the Clinton school on the Mansfield road just north of the city.

AN ACCIDENT THEORY
A very improbable theory was advanced by some of Magill's friends the tragedy had occurred. They said who visited the scene sometime after that the left barrel of the gun was very easily exploded on account of a lighter trigger spring and that they believed Magill went into the bed room to kiss his wife good bye before starting on a rabbit hunt and accidentally shot her. Their theory is, further, that he was nearly wild with grief over the terrible accident and chose to die himself rather than live and know that he had killed his wife. The theory is a very improbable one and is believed by very few. The entire situation points to a premeditated crime.

Magill was 45 years of age on September 21st, 1912, and his wife was 29 years of age on May 27th, 1912. Magill is the father of two sons and one daughter, Ivan and Morgan and Mrs. Harrison Houbler, and his wife was the mother of one daughter, 8 years of age. The children were all from former marriages.

LETTERS ARE FOUND
The letters and post cards on which the word "lies" was written and which could not be located at first were later discovered to be in the possession of the young son who has been sick for several weeks and they were taken possession of by the coroner and the police. All were examined thoroughly but nothing could be found in them that might have any bearing upon the crime.

CALLS FOR HIS WIFE
For several hours after having been taken to the hospital Magill was unable to speak or comprehend anything, but at about noon he gained strength to some extent and talked to his attendants. He remembered nothing of having shot his wife and himself, but repeatedly asked the nurse to telephone for his wife to come to his bedside.

It is the opinion of the physicians that he was temporarily deranged on account of loss of sleep and committed the terrible act while his mind was in this condition.

FUNERAL MONDAY
The remains of Mrs. Magill will be removed to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miser, at Esto where the funeral will be held Monday.

Occasionally a patient swears by his doctor, but more often at him.

CITIES

May Now Adopt Any Form Of Government

The Amendment To Constitu- tion Now Being In Effect

The municipal home rule amendment provided by Ohio's new constitution went into effect Friday. It vastly enlarges the powers of municipalities. Municipalities may now determine their form of government by any one of three ways. They may, upon vote of the people, elect 15 citizens to frame a charter, which must be submitted to the people for approval. The form of government they may have can either be the commission, the federal or any other plan not out of harmony with the new organic law of the state.

Up until Friday the cities and villages of the state could only have the form and machinery of government provided for them by the general assembly. They could not do anything to improve their city conditions and urban comfort, unless the legislature previously had granted such powers to them.

Now this is all changed. Every municipality, if the electors so order, may frame its own charter and choose its own form of government, without having to consult the legislature, and is given authority to exercise all powers of local self-government.

In Columbus an ordinance is already pending to provide for the election of a commission of 15 citizens to frame a charter, if the people so vote. The commission plan of government seems to be favored there. In Cleveland a similar move is on. The federal plan seems to have the preference there. Toledo, Cincinnati and Dayton are said to be thinking of taking action soon.

Another important feature of the home rule amendment is that it gives municipalities the power to acquire, construct, own, lease and operate any or all of their public utilities. This power is broad enough to include telephone and street railway companies.

The authority to own and operate utilities is subject to the limitations fixed by the general assembly on the power of the municipality to levy taxes and incur indebtedness. A city may raise money for such purpose by issuing mortgage bonds beyond the limit of bonded indebtedness fixed by law, provided that such bonds are made a lien only on the property and revenues of the utility itself.

Cities are given the right to appropriate private property for a public use, and this will enable a city to take property for a civic center, park or a street opening and a sufficient amount of adjacent property to protect the improvement.

Cities are also given authority to regulate billboard advertising. They can restrict the size, location and character of such advertising.

It is probable that under the broad powers vested in municipalities under the new constitutional amendment, experiments will be made in municipalization of public utilities within the next few years that were undreamed of years ago.

DEATHS

Emor Mitchell
Emor Mitchell, formerly of near Lock, died Friday at his home in Belmont, Ill. His death was caused by heart trouble. He was 59 years of age.

Mr. Edgar Ball of Columbus is visiting for several days with Dr. and Mrs. C. K. Conard.

Mr. J. A. Westrich has disposed of his business in Howard, Ohio, his brother, Mr. A. F. Westrich, purchasing the same.

Mr. and Mrs. George Weirick returned to their home in Millersburg Friday morning after a visit with their son, Mr. Charles Weirick, and family of Hiawatha park.

Mr. Russell Sellers of Starling-Ohio Medical college, Columbus, is in the city to spend Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Sellers, East Gambler street.

Mr. John M. Bocher is lying at his residence, West High street, in a critical condition with Bright's disease. He is not expected to survive the day.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Allerding went to Mansfield Friday afternoon where they will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Allerding.

All persons knowing themselves indebted to Mr. Westrich will please call and settle before Dec. 10th.

11-15-12
Dr. Isabel Nixon went to Fostoria, O., this morning where she will be the guest of friends over Sunday.

Mrs. Fred Sells of Utica is the guest of relatives in the city for a few days.

Society News

Entertained With Auction
Mrs. James F. Lee, North Main street, entertained informally with auction at her home on Friday afternoon in honor of Mrs. Edmund G. Bates of Alliance, who is the guest of Mrs. Stephen A. Douglass of the Ohio State Sanatorium.

Leap-Year Dance Enjoyed By Students
The young ladies of the Mt. Vernon High school entertained with a leap-year dance in the Pythian armory Friday evening in honor of the young men. Dancing was enjoyed until one o'clock with music by Ralls' orchestra. The chaperones of the evening were three members of the High school faculty, Mrs. I. M. Wolverton and Mrs. Frank Harper.

Enjoyable Party
Mr. Charles Norrick and Mr. Ray Norrick entertained at their home on Oak street Friday evening in honor of their birthday anniversary. At seven o'clock a two course dinner was served. Those present were Miss Elizabeth Stricker of Howard, Miss Agnes Swigert, Miss Irene Perish, Miss Hazel Hedge and Messrs. George Spelman, Andrew Proper, Warren Pipes, Charles Norrick, Ray Norrick, and Mrs. Norrick.

The Elks' Dance A Pleasant Event
The Elks' opened the social season of 1912-1913 with a most delightful musical entertainment and dance in their club rooms on Friday evening—the event being the first of a series of dances to be given during the winter months. The home was attractively decorated for the occasion. From eight until ten o'clock a fine concert was given by the Troubadours Amusement Company. Dancing was then enjoyed from ten until two o'clock. Punch was served the dancers and a buffet luncheon was served during the evening. A number of guests were present from out of the city. The next dance of the series will occur on the evening of December 12.

Lodge To Entertain
The Knights and Ladies of Security initiated three candidates Friday evening, this making five for the month of November. This order has increased the membership in the local council over fifty per cent in the last ninety days. There are some fifty applicants for membership who will join the council during the month of December, and all who have not done so should be examined soon in order to get into this class. At the meeting Friday evening the council decided to hold an entertainment and luncheon in January in honor of these new members who have already been initiated or those who will be initiated before January. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for this occasion, and a very enjoyable time is expected.

Reception Given By Kinman Council
A most enjoyable social event of the reception tendered Friday evening by Kinman Council, No. 76, Royal and Select Masters in honor of Mr. Lewis P. Schaus, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Royal and Select Master of Ohio and Mrs. Schaus at the Masonic Temple. A reception was held from 8 until 9 o'clock during which time an opportunity was given the members of the Kinman Council and their ladies to meet Mr. and Mrs. Schaus. In the receiving line were Thrice Illustrious Master R. B. Armstrong and Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Schaus and Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Boetwick. During the hours of the reception a fine musical program was rendered by Mild's orchestra.

Following the reception dancing was enjoyed until midnight with excellent music by the Mild orchestra. Cards were played by those who did not care for dancing. Punch was served in the ball room.

At intervals during the evening a delicious buffet luncheon was served in the banquet room. The tables were handsomely decorated with carnations and purple chrysanthemums. A large number were present during the evening and the event was one of much pleasure to all.

A Great Building Falls
when its foundation is undermined, and if the foundation of health—good digestion—is attacked, quick collapse follows. On the first signs of indigestion, Dr. King's New Life Pills should be taken to tone the stomach and regulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Pleasant, easy, safe, and only 25 cents at G. R. Baker & Co.

Banner Classified Ads Pay.